THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS REPORTED BY HOSPITALS IN ALBERTA FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1988

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HIGHLIGHTS

- In 1988, 6,274 therapeutic abortions were performed in 18 Alberta hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees. Total abortions in 1988 were 14.0% higher than in 1987.

- Calgary and Edmonton hospitals accounted for 82.1% of all abortions in Alberta in 1988, compared to 79.5% in 1987.

- Five hospitals, each performing 200 or more abortions per year, accounted for 88.7% of Alberta's abortions. Three of these five hospitals together performed over 4,800 abortions in 1988 (78.0% of the total) which averaged to approximately 1,630 abortions performed annually in each facility.

- In 1988, the number of therapeutic abortions performed per 1,000 Alberta females, 15 to 44 years of age, was 10.4 compared to 9.2 in 1987. Abortions per 100 live births was 14.9 in 1988, up from 13.1 in 1987.

- Teenage women accounted for 25.4% of all abortion patients while 54.7% were between the ages of 20 and 29 years.

- Single women accounted for 66.3% of therapeutic abortion patients while 16.3% were married and 17.4% were either separated, divorced, widowed or living in common-law arrangements.

- In 1988, women with 12 or less weeks of gestation accounted for 89.2% of all abortions, down from 90.2 in 1987.

- At least one previous induced abortion was reported by 20.7% of therapeutic abortion patients in 1988 while 8.7% reported at least one previous spontaneous abortion.

- The most frequently used initial procedure in 1988 was Suction D&C, performed in 76.2% of all abortion cases, up from 64.8% of all abortion cases in 1987.

- At least one complication resulting from abortion procedures was reported in 4.5% of the cases, a decrease from 5.5% in 1987.

- Subsequent procedures were performed in 4.0% of all abortion cases, down from 4.8% in 1987.

- In 1988, 7.7% (480) of the women obtaining abortions were sterilized concurrently with the abortion procedure.

- The most recent Canadian data available were for 1986. In this year, Alberta hospitals accounted for 9.9% of all abortions performed in Canada.

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents pertinent facts about the women who had therapeutic abortions and the care provided to them in Alberta hospitals during 1988. Specifically, the report includes data related to the following topics, among others: demographic and medical information about the therapeutic abortion patients, the nature of medical procedures used and the consequent complications and the average annual rates of abortion, in relation to the female population and the annual level of live births.

Although the focus is on the current Alberta situation, selected historical provincial and national statistics are provided for comparison and trend analysis. Therapeutic abortion data are taken from hospital records reported to Alberta Health. Since the data are also reported to Statistics Canada, the overall comparability of provincial and national statistics is enhanced.

THE ABORTION LAW

In 1969, the Parliament of Canada passed the Criminal Code Amendment Act, which legalized the performance of abortions under specific conditions. Chapter C-34, Section 251, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1970, outlined the conditions which had to be satisfied for the legal performance of therapeutic abortions, which are as follows:

1. the abortion procedure must be carried out by a qualified physician;

2. the qualified physician may not be a member of the hospital's therapeutic abortion committee;

3. the procedure is permitted only in an accredited or an approved hospital, the former consisting of general hospitals accredited by the Canadian Council of Hospital Accreditation and the latter being hospitals approved by the Provincial Minister of Health; and

4. the decision regarding the termination of pregnancy is placed before the hospital's therapeutic abortion committee. The committee must decide whether or not continuation of the pregnancy "would or would be likely to" endanger the life or health of the female patient.

However, since the Supreme Court of Canada struck down this section of the Criminal Code on January 28, 1988 the following stipulations regarding abortions in Alberta are in effect:

1. to be eligible for reimbursement under Alberta's Health Care Insurance Act the abortion must be carried out in an approved hospital by a qualified physician.

2. the decision regarding the termination of pregnancy rests with the individual and the medical doctor.

3. under Alberta's Hospitals Act consultation by another physician is required for all procedures involving the termination of pregnancy.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

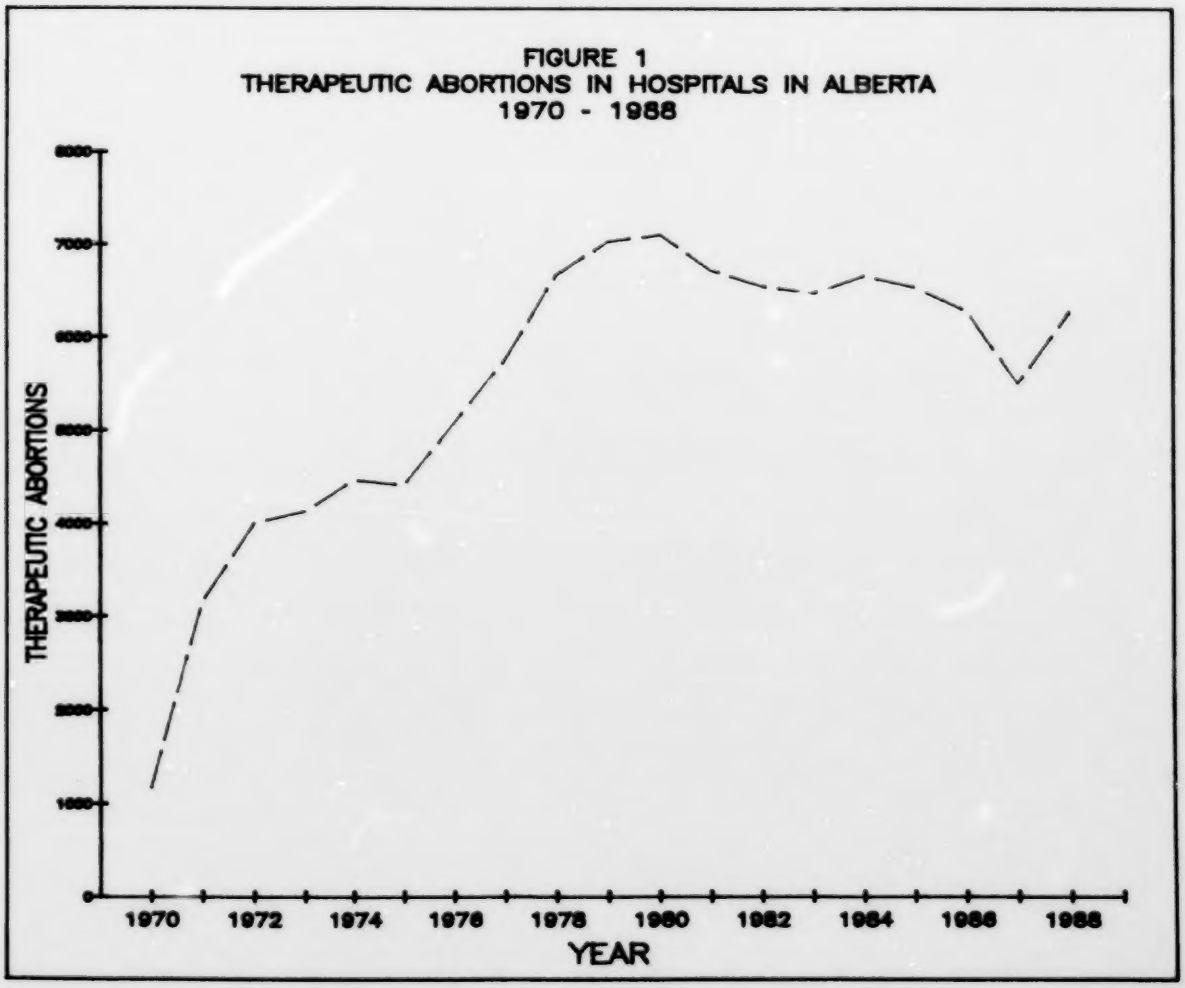
Abortions Performed in Alberta and Canadian Hospitals

A list of hospitals which had therapeutic abortion committees in 1988 is provided in Appendix B of this report. In 1988, 6,274 abortions were performed in 18 of the 22 Alberta hospitals with abortion committees, a 14% increase from the 1987 level of 5,505 abortions. This marks the first major increase in the number of abortions performed since an overall downward trend began in 1981, with only one small upward turn in 1984.

From 1984 to 1986, the number of abortions performed in Canadian hospitals increased from 62,291 to 63,508. Although the number of abortions performed in Alberta increased from 1987 to 1988, the 1988 level remains substantially lower than in 1980 when a downward trend in abortions began.

Figure 1 illustrates the trend in total therapeutic abortions performed in Alberta hospitals from 1970 to the present. Table A-1 in Appendix A presents the data for both Alberta and Canada.

FIGURE 1
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN HOSPITALS IN ALBERTA
1970 - 1988



Distribution of Hospitals and Therapeutic Abortions by Number of Abortions Performed

In 1988, five hospitals performing over 200 abortions each, accounted for 88.7% of all therapeutic abortions in the province. Three of these five hospitals performed a total of over 4,800 abortions in 1988 (78.0% of the total), with an average of 1,630 abortions. In 1987, six hospitals, each performing over 200 abortions, accounted for 87.0% of the total abortions in that year. Three of these six hospitals performed a total of over 4,000 abortions (72.9% of the total), which averaged to over 1,300 abortions in each hospital.

In 1988, of the 22 hospitals in Alberta with therapeutic abortion committees 68.2% performed between 0 and 100 abortions (60.7% in Canada), accounting for 5.4% of the total 6,274 cases (5.4% in Canada); 18.2% of the eligible Alberta hospitals each performed between 101 and 400 abortions (23.4% in Alberta), accounting for 16.6% of the Alberta total (20.1% in Canada). The remaining 13.6% of Alberta hospitals with abortion committees (16.0% in Canada) each performed over 400 abortions, representing 78.0% of all women receiving abortions in Alberta hospitals (74.4% in Canada). See Endnote (2). The data for Canada refers to 1985 since detailed Canadian data concerning the distribution and concentration of abortions across hospitals was unavailable for 1986. However, as of January 1, 1985, there were 253 Canadian hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees, the proportions reflecting data from the 244 hospitals that filed reports in 1985. Further information regarding the distribution and concentration of abortions in Alberta hospitals can be found in Table A-2 of Appendix A.

Abortions by Hospital Location

Edmonton and Calgary have seven hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees. In 1988, six of these seven institutions carried out 5,152 abortions, accounting for 82.1% of all abortion cases in Alberta hospitals. For four consecutive years this percentage has been falling (84.3% in 1984 to 83.7%, 83.3% and 79.5% in 1985, 1986 and 1987, respectively), reflecting a slight decline in the concentration of abortions in the metropolitan hospitals. However, in 1988 the percentage of abortions performed in Edmonton and Calgary increased from the 1987 figure of 79.5% to 82.2%.

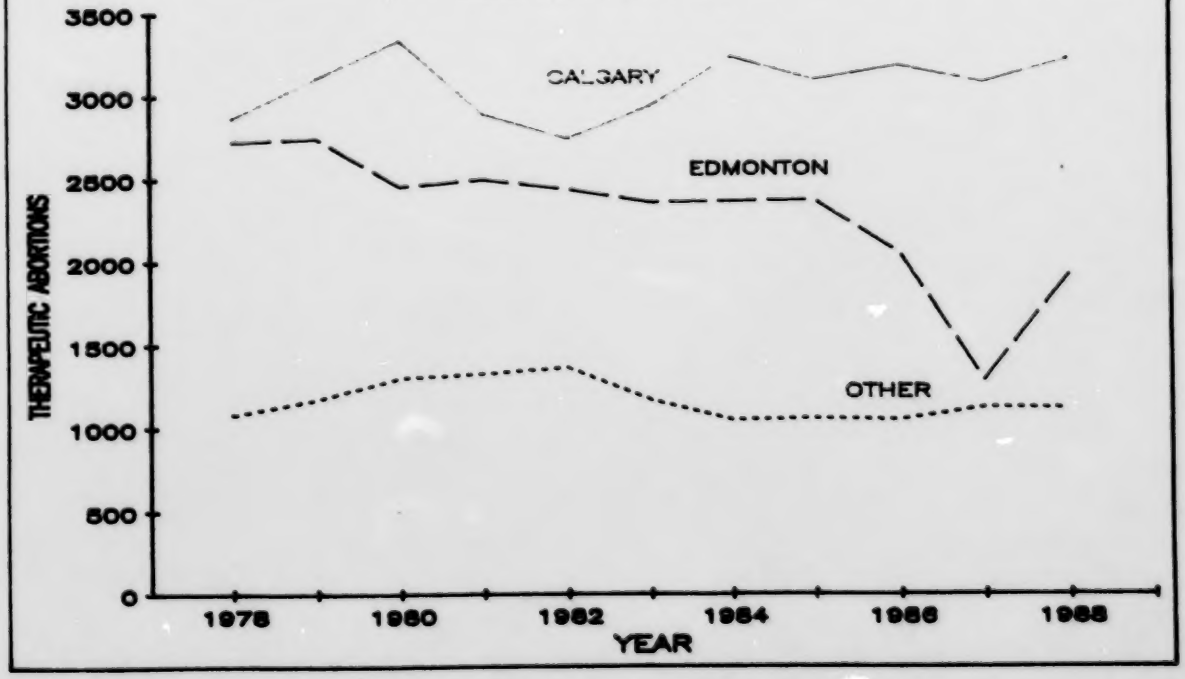
Since 1983, Calgary's proportion of total abortions has been on a general upward trend, rising from 41.9% in 1982 to 50.6% in 1986, 56.0% in 1987 and now 51.5% in 1988. Edmonton's proportion has, in contrast, been on a downward trend over this same period, from 37.2% in 1982 to 30.7% in 1988. A total of 3,228 therapeutic abortions were performed in Calgary in 1988, 4.6% more than in 1987. Edmonton's total for 1988 was 1,924, 48.9% more than in 1987.

Although the majority of Calgary and Edmonton cases were likely comprised of residents of the two cities, these hospitals served as referral centres for women originating from other parts of the province and country. Figure 2 presents a historical perspective of the proportion of total abortions performed in three areas of Alberta (Edmonton, Calgary and all other locations). Details regarding the distribution of therapeutic abortions by hospital location are presented in Table A-3 of Appendix A.

THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RATES IN ALBERTA AND CANADA

Two calculations of abortion rates were performed: per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years and per 100 live births. The Alberta abortion rate per 1,000 females (15-44 years) increased from 9.2 in 1987 to 10.4 in 1988, the first increase since 1984. In 1988, the total female population in child bearing years declined from 1987, however, the total number of abortions increased for the province of Alberta over the same time period. The increase in abortions along with the population decrease, netted an increase in the abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44. In 1987, a significant decline in the number of abortions led to the decline in the abortion rate per 1,000 females, (9.2) as the female population in child bearing years remained close to its 1986 level. In 1986, however, Alberta experienced an increase in the female population of the 15-44 years age group. Combined with a decrease in the total number of abortions the abortion rate per 1,000 females declined from the 1985 figure. The average rate for Canada remained constant at 10.2 from 1983 to 1986. The Canadian figures for 1987 and 1988 remain unavailable. Details on therapeutic abortion rates in Canada and Alberta are provided in Appendix A-4.

FIGURE 2
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BY HOSPITAL LOCATION,
ALBERTA 1978-88



The 1988 rate of abortions per 100 live births was 14.9, up from 13.1 in 1987 and still greater than the 1986 rate of 14.4. The Canadian rate remained higher than the Alberta rate from 1981 to 1986. Canadian rates for 1987 and 1988 were not available at the time of this report. Figure 3 presents trends in abortion rates for Alberta and Canada from 1971 to 1988.

Although the Alberta abortion rate per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years has been higher than the Canadian rate from 1971 to 1986, the provincial abortion rate per 100 live births has, since 1981, remained lower than the corresponding Canadian rate. This has occurred because the difference in the fertility rates (live births per 1,000 females 15-44 years) between Alberta and Canada, has been much larger than the difference in the abortion rates (in terms of 1,000 females 15-44 years). For an algebraic relationship between the therapeutic abortion rate per 100 live births and the fertility rate, see Endnote (6).

Alberta's abortion rate per 1,000 females aged 15-44 has remained the third highest in Canada since 1971 and has also remained higher than the Canadian average over the same time period. The trend in the abortion rate per 1,000 females in Alberta follows closely to that of British Columbia and Ontario, rising from 1971 to the late 1970's followed by a downward trend. Figure 4 presents trends in abortion rates for the ten provinces and Canada, from 1971 to 1986.

FIGURE 3
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RATES IN ALBERTA AND CANADA
1971-1988

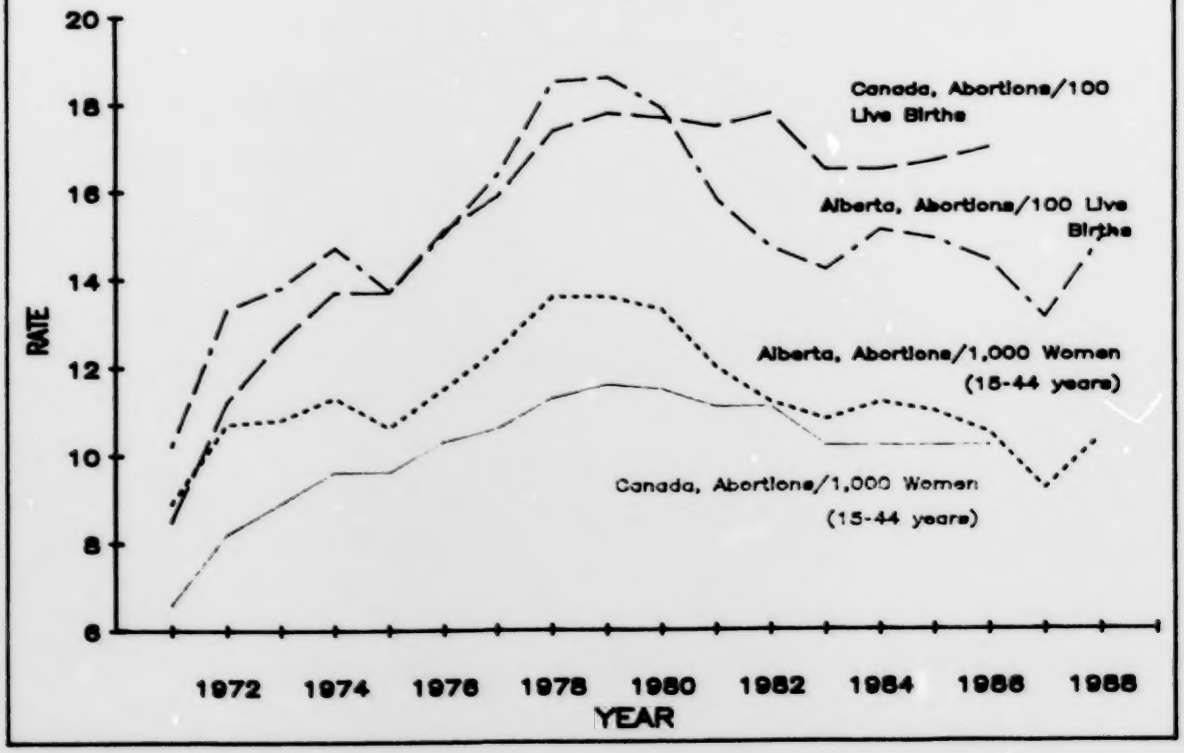
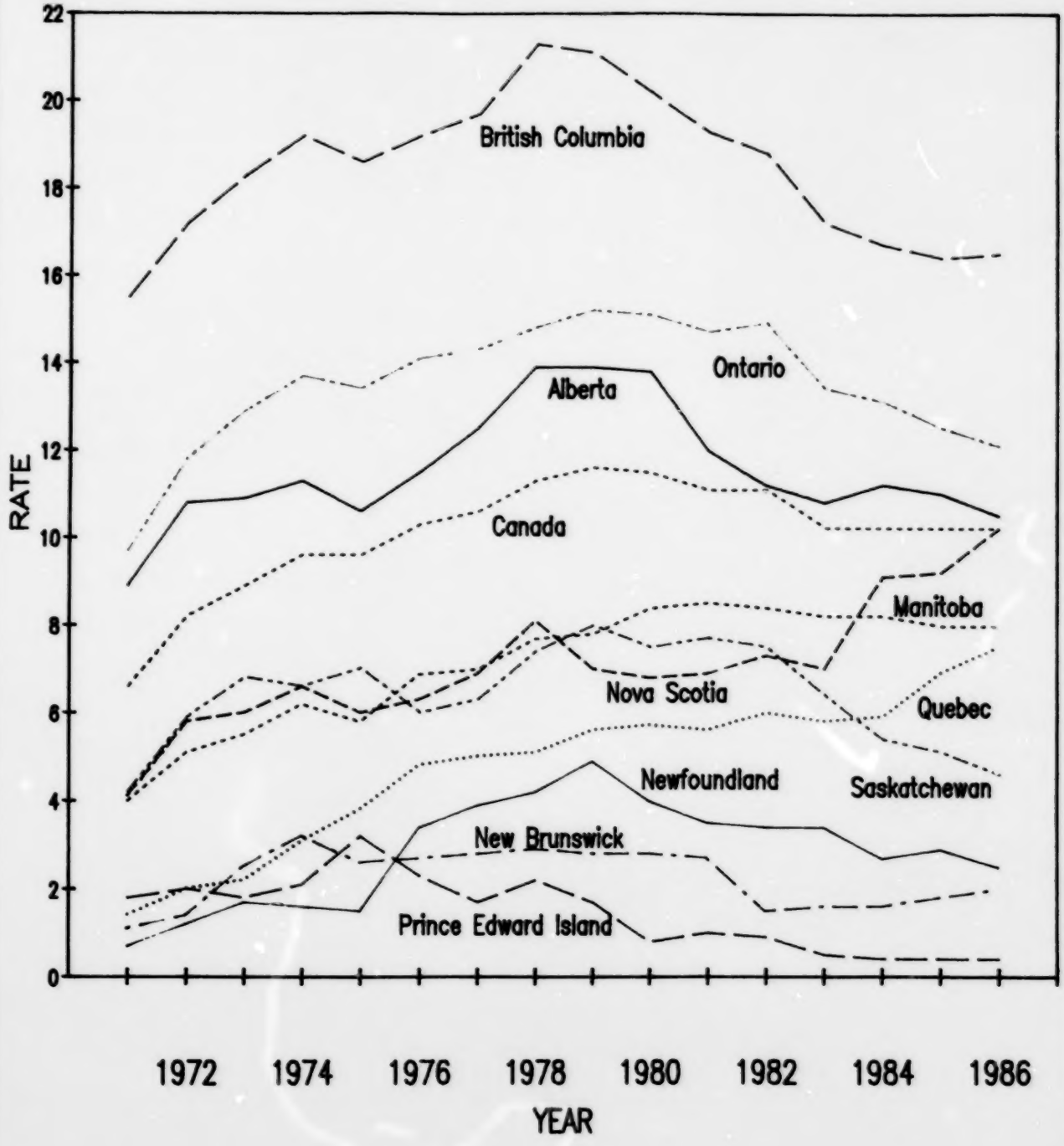


FIGURE 4
TRERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS PER 1,000 FEMALES AGED 15-44
BY PROVINCE
1971 - 1986



SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS

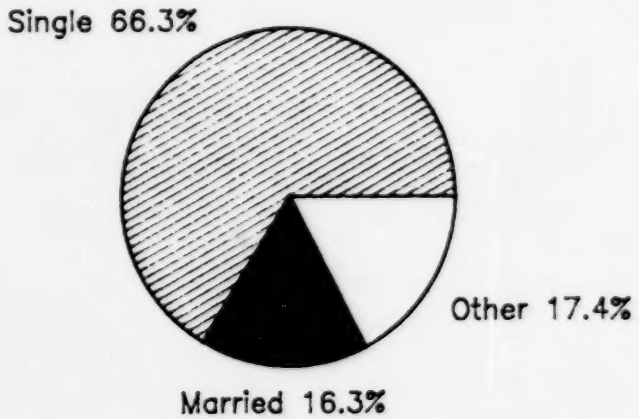
Residence

Of the 6,274 women receiving abortions in 1988, 6,203 or 98.87% were Alberta residents, 1.10% were from other provinces and only 0.03% were foreign residents. Similarly, in 1986, Canadian residents accounted for 99.9% of the total of 63,508 therapeutic abortions performed in Canada. The percentage of abortions performed on residents of other provinces has been generally increasing since 1982. Of the 71 non-residents of Alberta who received abortions in Alberta hospitals in 1988, 69 were residents of other Canadian provinces or territories and 2 were from other countries. Alberta residents accounted for 1,315 days or 96.7% of the total 1,360 hospital days attributable to therapeutic abortions. Statistical detail is provided in Table A-5 of Appendix A.

Marital Status

The proportion of total therapeutic abortions performed on single women fell slightly from 64.5% in 1982 to 64.2% in 1983. In 1984 the percentage of single women obtaining abortions in Alberta hospitals rose to 66.3% but fell again to the 1985 and 1986 level of 65.8% and to an even further decline to 64.7 in 1987. In 1988, however, the proportion of single women obtaining abortions rose again to the same level as in 1984 of 66.3%. The proportion of married women remained constant at 19.5% in 1984 and 1985 and has since been decreasing from 18.6% in 1986 to 17.9% in 1987 and 16.3% in 1988. Figure 5 presents the distribution of therapeutic abortions by marital status for Alberta in 1988. Historical data regarding this distribution are presented in Table A-6 of Appendix A.

FIGURE 5
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS,
DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS,
ALBERTA, 1988



Age

Since 1979, the proportion of therapeutic abortions performed on women less than 20 years of age in Alberta hospitals has been decreasing: 36.1% in 1979 to 24.1% in 1986. In 1987 this trend reversed somewhat when 25.5% of abortions were performed on teenagers and in 1988 this percentage remained at 25.5%. Women aged 20 to 24 years accounted for 32.6% of total abortions in 1988, down slightly from the 1987 level of 32.8%. The mode of the distribution (i.e., the age group reporting the highest number of abortions) switched in 1980 from the 15 to 19 years of age category to the 20 to 24 years group and has since remained unchanged. Details are provided in Table A-6 of Appendix A. Figure 6 illustrates the age distribution of women having abortions in Alberta hospitals in 1988.

Teenage Abortions

In both Alberta and Canada, the proportion of therapeutic abortions performed on teenage women steadily declined from 1982 to 1986. In Alberta the proportion of females aged 15-19 years obtaining abortions declined from 28.6% in 1982 to 24.1% in 1986, while in Canada this proportion declined from 26.8% to 22.3% over the same time period. Although the proportion of teenagers obtaining abortions in Alberta remained higher than the Canadian average throughout the 1982 to 1986 time frame, Alberta's rate has dropped significantly since 1982. See Endtnote (2).

In 1987 and 1988 the proportion of teenage women obtaining abortions remained constant at 25.5% , however, this figure represents an increase from the 1986 figure of 24.1% and 25.2% in 1985. The comparable figure for Canada was 22.3% in 1986, down slightly from 22.9% in 1985. Of the 1,597 abortions received by Alberta teens in 1988, 93.0% were single, 1.8% were married and 5.2% were either divorced, widowed, separated or living in common-law arrangements.

FIGURE 6
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS,
DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP,
ALBERTA 1988

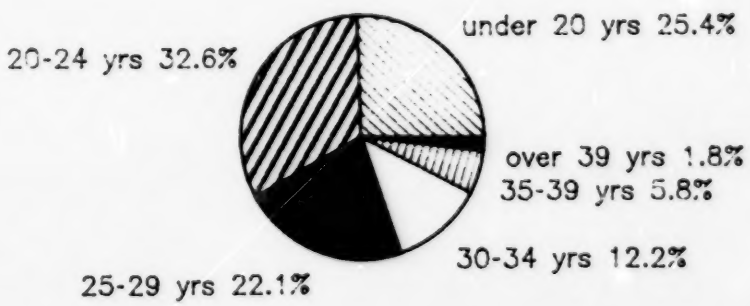


TABLE 1
TEENAGE ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, 1982 TO 1988

	ALBERTA		CANADA	
YEAR	THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS TO PATIENTS UNDER 20 YEARS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ABORTIONS FOR ALL AGES	THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS TO PATIENTS UNDER 20 YEARS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ABORTIONS FOR ALL AGES
		(%)		(%)
1988	**1,597**	**25.5**	**n/a**	**n/a**
1987	1,406	25.5	n/a	n/a
1986	1,518	24.1	13,920	22.3
1985	1,650	25.2	13,849	22.9
1984	1,696	25.4	14,598	23.6
1983	1,722	26.6	16,696	24.9
1982	1,880	28.6	17,647	26.8

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS RELATING TO THE PREGNANCY RECORD OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS

Gestation Period

The gestation period, defined as the interval between the onset of the last menstrual period and the expulsion or removal of the fetus, is calculated as the difference between the date the pregnancy is terminated and the first day of the last normal menses and is expressed in completed weeks rather than in days. In cases where the normal menses is not known, gestation is clinically estimated. Since 1983, at least 89% of all therapeutic abortions in Alberta have been performed on patients having gestation periods of 12 weeks or less. This proportion has been over 80% since 1978.

From 1981 to 1985, the proportion of therapeutic abortions performed in the early stages of pregnancy (prior to 13 weeks gestation) increased steadily, from 83.2% in 1980 to 91.5% in 1985. The proportion performed prior to 9 weeks gestation also rose over these five years from 16.0% in 1980 to 29.4% in 1985. In 1986, these proportions both fell to 90.1% and 25.4%, respectively, rising again to 90.2% and 27.8% in 1987 and then both proportions declined in 1988 to 89.2% and 27.3%.

Canadian data show these proportions increasing from 1981 to 1985. However, the percentage of abortions performed prior to 13 weeks decreased from 89.0% in 1985 to 87.8% in 1986. Similarly, the percentage of abortions performed prior to 9 weeks gestation declined from 31.8% in 1985 to 30.7% in 1986.

Considering 1988 therapeutic abortions in Alberta by marital status and age, 91.4% of all married women had their abortions early in pregnancy (prior to 13 weeks), the lowest figure in this category since 1983. For single women 88.4% had their abortions early in pregnancy while in the category of others 90.1% had their abortions early in pregnancy. Tables A-7 and A-8 in Appendix A provide further details.

TABLE 2
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY GESTATION PERIOD(3) (1982 TO 1988 SELECTED YEARS)

	ALBERTA			CANADA	
Gestation Period	**1988**	1986	1982	1986	1982
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 9 wks.	**27.3**	25.4	17.9	30.7	25.9
9 - 12 wks.	**61.9**	64.7	67.8	57.1	61.0
Subtotal (under 13 wks.)	**89.2**	90.1	85.7	87.8	86.9
13 - 16 wks.	**7.7**	7.3	11.7	8.7	9.7
17 - 20 wks.	**3.0**	2.6	2.4	3.0	3.2
21 wks. or over(4)	**0.1**	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2
Subtotal (13 wks. or over)	**10.8**	9.9	14.3	12.1	13.1
TOTAL(5)	**100.0**	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(1),(2) Refer to the Endnotes.
(3) Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
(4) These abortions were required due to the presence of fetal abnormalities.
(5) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

Previous Deliveries

At least one previous delivery was reported by 42.4% of all abortion patients in Alberta, a small increase over the 42.2% of 1987. Comparable Canadian figures for 1986 and 1985 were 41.9% and 40.9%, respectively.

Of all single women having abortions in Alberta hospitals in 1988, 23.7% reported having at least one previous delivery. The corresponding percentages for married women and all other women were 83.9% and 74.5% respectively.

Generally, the older the patient the greater the likelihood of a previous delivery. Of all patients 30 years of age or older, 74.4% had one or more previous deliveries as compared to 34.5% of women less than 30 years, the same figures as in 1987. Additional information is presented in Table 3 below and Table A-9 in Appendix A.

TABLE 3
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, WITH PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1982 TO 1988

YEAR	ALBERTA	CANADA
	(%)	(%)
1988	**42.4**	**n/a**
1987	42.2	n/a
1986	41.6	41.9
1985	39.0	40.9
1984	38.0	40.3
1983	36.4	39.1
1982	34.2	38.3

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

Previous Spontaneous or Induced Abortions

Previous spontaneous abortions were reported by 8.7% of all women receiving abortions in Alberta hospitals in 1988. The comparable figure for Canada in 1986 was 9.5%.

One or more previous induced abortions were reported by 20.7% of women having an abortion in Alberta in 1988. The Canadian figure was 26.8% for 1986. Although this proportion has been on an upward trend for a number of years (since 1982), for both Alberta and Canada, Alberta's figures have been lower than those for Canada.

Of all women having abortions who were separated, divorced, widowed or in common-law arrangements, 24.5% reported having had at least one previous induced abortion; 19.9% of all single women and 19.5% of all married women having abortions also reported previous induced abortions. Considering the distribution by age group, 29.0% of women aged 25 to 29 years having abortions reported having had at least one previous induced abortion.

Further details regarding previous induced or spontaneous abortions are provided in Table 4 below and Table A-10 of Appendix A.

TABLE 4
PERCENTAGE OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, WITH PREVIOUS INDUCED OR SPONTANEOUS ABORTIONS, 1982 TO 1988

	Induced Abortions		Spontaneous Abortions	
Year	Alberta	Canada	Alberta	Canada
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1988	**20.7**	**n/a**	**8.7**	**n/a**
1987	20.2	n/a	8.1	n/a
1986	18.5	26.8	7.7	9.5
1985	16.6	23.1	6.8	9.3
1984	16.6	22.1	6.9	9.1
1983	14.6	21.2	7.0	8.6
1982	13.5	20.0	5.8	8.1

Refer to Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

SELECTED MEDICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION CASES

Surgical Procedures

Initial Surgical Procedures

Procedures undertaken to terminate pregnancy are referred to as initial surgical procedures. In 1988, the most frequently used initial procedure was Suction D&C, which accounted for 76.2% of all cases. All D&C procedures together accounted for 94.3% of initial procedures used, this is a slight increase from the 1987 figure of 94.0%. The ratio of D&C procedures to all others had been on an overall upward trend since 1972. This trend can be attributed to the increased percentage of abortions being performed prior to 13 weeks gestation, as initial D&C procedures are performed when pregnancy is terminated early in gestation.

Suction D&C and the combination procedure Suction-Surgical D&C have generally been favoured over Surgical D&C when curettage abortion procedures have been required. The proportion of women receiving abortions in Alberta by Saline and Urea injections and Hysterectomy and Hysterotomy procedures was relatively small. Details are provided in Table 5 below and in Table A-11 of Appendix A.

TABLE 5
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES (1982 TO 1988, SELECTED YEARS)

	ALBERTA			CANADA	
Initial Surgical Procedures	**1988**	1986	1982	1986	1982
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Surgical D&C	**0.4**	1.1	3.1	2.8	4.3
Suction D&C	**76.2**	74.6	78.0	92.4	86.6
Surgical & Suction D&C	**17.7**	19.1	12.1	n/a(3)	3.2
Hysterotomy	**0.1**	0.2	0.3	0.1(3)	0.2
Hysterectomy	**-**	0.1	0.1	n/a(3)	0.1
Saline/Saline D&C	**-**	-	0.2	1.7	2.3
Urea	**0.2**	0.5	1.9	0.3	1.0
Others	**5.3**	4.3	4.3	2.6	2.3
Total(4)	**100.0**	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(1),(2) Refer to the Endnotes.
(3) Due to changes in reporting procedures for Statistics Canada, all D&C procedures are coded as either surgical or suction. Combination procedures cannot be identified. Similarly, hysterotomy, and hysterectomy procedures are not reported together.
(4) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

Subsequent Surgical Procedures

Subsequent surgical procedures may be performed when initial procedures result in complications. In 1988, 4.0% of all women having therapeutic abortions in Alberta hospitals underwent such procedures, down from the 1987 figure of 4.8%. Canadian figures, historically, have been significantly lower than those in Alberta. Only 1.2% of Canadian women having abortions required subsequent procedures in 1986.

Of all initial D&C procedures performed in Alberta in 1988, only 1.2% required subsequent methods, down from the 1.6% of 1987. No subsequent procedures were performed with the initial procedure Hysterectomy.

The most frequent subsequent procedures performed were of the D&C type which collectively accounted for 77.0% of all subsequent procedures (Surgical D&C 44.0%; Suction D&C 31.0% and Surgical and Suction D&C 2.0%), a decrease over the 1987 level of 81.8%. An explanation for the rather high proportion of the D&C type may be that a high percentage of abortions were performed prior to 13 weeks gestation (a period where D&C initial and subsequent procedures generally are carried out more quickly and effectively than other procedures). Details can be found in Table 6 below and Tables A-12 and A-13 of Appendix A.

TABLE 6
THE PERCENTAGE OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS REQUIRING SUBSEQUENT SURGICAL PROCEDURES, 1982 TO 1988

ALBERTA							CANADA	
1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1986	1982
(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
4.0	4.8	5.2	3.6	3.6	3.9	4.7	1.2	1.7

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

Abortion Complications

The conditions of morbidity occurring as a result of pregnancy termination are defined as abortion complications. The following discussion relates only to data pertaining to the hospitalization period directly following the termination of pregnancies. In 1988, 4.5% of all women having abortions in Alberta hospitals had complications. The comparable figure for 1987 was 5.5% and 6.0% in 1986, much higher than the Canadian average for 1986 of 1.8%.

The complication which occurred most frequently in 1988 was 'retained products of conception' which accounted for 70.6% of all complications. This was the third increase in this proportion since 1981. The shorter the gestation, the lower the probability that a 'retained product' complication will occur. It follows then, that as the proportion of abortions performed prior to 13 weeks gestation decreases, the proportion of the 'retained product' type of complication increases.

Complications involving laceration of the cervix accounted for 7.9% of all complications; haemorrhage also accounted for 7.9%; infection for 4.6%; perforation of the uterus for 5.0% and all other complications constituted the remaining 4.0%. Details are provided in Table 7 below and in Tables A-14 and A-15 in Appendix A.

The complication rate in Alberta has always been significantly higher than the Canadian rate. The risk of complication is directly related to patient age, length of gestation, initial procedures and whether or not the woman has had previous deliveries. Alberta has had a larger proportion of patients in the higher risk groups (e.g., patients under 25 years of age with gestation longer than 9 weeks and with no previous deliveries). A more detailed explanation for the difference in complication rates between Alberta and Canada is presented in note (7) of the Endnotes.

TABLE 7
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS WITH AT LEAST ONE ABORTION COMPLICATION, 1982 TO 1988

ALBERTA							CANADA	
1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1986	1982
(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
4.5	5.5	6.0	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.6	1.8	2.4

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

Concurrent Sterilizations

In 1988, 480 women, representing 7.7% of all women having abortions in Alberta hospitals, were sterilized concurrently with an abortion procedure. This marks the first decrease in both the absolute number as well as the proportion of all abortion patients undergoing concurrent sterilization since 1983. The following procedures were used: tubal ligation (39.4%), tubal coagulation (22.1%), and hysterectomy (1.3%); the remainder (37.2%) were sterilized using other methods. Data regarding women sterilized concurrently with an abortion are presented in Table 8 below.

The sterilization decision relates directly to both the woman's age and whether or not she has had previous deliveries (i.e., generally, an older woman with several previous deliveries is more likely to choose sterilization than a younger woman with no previous deliveries). Of the 480 women sterilized with an abortion, 62.5% were 30 years of age or older. Patients under the age of 25 years accounted for 12.7% of all sterilizations. Regarding the 1988 age distribution of sterilized Alberta patients, the mode was the 30 to 34 years category (accounting for 27.9% of all women sterilized with an abortion procedure).

Only 8.3% of all patients sterilized had no previous deliveries. Of those patients sterilized who did have previous deliveries, 75.8% reported having had two or more. Details are presented in Table A-16 of Appendix A.

TABLE 8
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, UNDERGOING CONCURRENT STERILIZATION, 1982 TO 1988

YEAR	ALBERTA	CANADA
	(%)	(%)
1988	**7.7**	**n/a**
1987	9.1	n/a
1986	9.7	7.3
1985	8.9	7.0
1984	8.1	7.3
1983	8.0	7.2
1982	8.4	7.6

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).

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TABLE A-1

NUMBER OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS REPORTED BY HOSPITALS IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADA(2) 1970 TO 1988

	ALBERTA			CANADA	
YEAR	NUMBER	ANNUAL CHANGE	AS % OF CANADA	NUMBER	ANNUAL CHANGE
		(%)	(%)		(%)
1988	**6,274**	**14.0**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
1987	5,505	-12.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
1986	6,295	-3.8	9.9	63,508	1.2
1985	6,544	-1.8	10.4	62,740(3)	0.7
1984	6,665	2.9	10.7	62,291	0.8
1983	6,475	-1.2	10.5	61,800	-6.8
1982	6,556	-2.6	9.9	66,319	1.8
1981	6,728	-5.3	10.3	65,127	-1.1
1980	7,108	1.0	10.8	65,855	1.1
1979	7,036	5.4	10.8	65,135	4.5
1978	6,677	15.8	10.7	62,351	8.2
1977	5,766	13.4	10.0	57,620	5.7
1976	5,083	15.2	9.3	54,536	10.4
1975	4,412	-1.2	8.9	49,390	2.5
1974	4,464	8.1	9.3	48,198	11.5
1973	4,130	3.2	9.6	43,245	11.2
1972	4,002	26.3	10.3	38,905	25.7
1971	3,169	170.4	10.2	30,949	176.3
1970	1,172	-	10.5	11,200	-

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) and (2).
(3) Revised, due to additional reports from Quebec after issue of 1985 report.

TABLE A-2

DISTRIBUTION OF HOSPITALS AND THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BY NUMBER OF ABORTIONS PERFORMED ALBERTA(1) 1982 TO 1988

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
Abortion Range	Number of Hospitals Performing Abortions						
0	**4**	3	1	1	1	1	0
1-20	**4**	5	7	10	8	8	6
21-50	**5**	4	4	1	3	4	4
51-100	**2**	1	1	1	1	0	2
101-200	**2**	3	1	1	1	1	3
201-400	**2**	3	5	5	5	4	3
Over 400	**3**	3	3	3	3	4	3
Total(2)	**22**	22	22	22	22	22	22
Total Therapeutic Abortions	**6,274**	5,505	6,295	6,544	6,665	6,475	6,556
Abortion Range	Percent Distribution of Abortions Performed						
1-20	**0.8**	0.8	0.6	1.7	0.9	1.2	0.8
21-50	**2.3**	3.0	1.7	0.4	1.2	1.7	1.7
51-100	**2.3**	1.5	0.9	0.8	1.0	-	1.6
101-200	**5.9**	7.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	2.4	6.5
201-400	**10.7**	14.1	20.3	19.4	20.2	17.2	14.5
Over 400	**78.0**	72.9	74.8	75.9	75.1	77.5	74.9
Total(2)	**100.0**	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-3

THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BY HOSPITAL LOCATION, ALBERTA(1)
1978 TO 1988

	CALGARY			EDMONTON			OTHER		
YEAR	NUMBER	ANNUAL CHANGE	% OF ALL SERVICES	NUMBER	ANNUAL CHANGE	% OF ALL SERVICES	NUMBER	ANNUAL CHANGE	% OF ALL SERVICES
		(%)	(%)		(%)	(%)		(%)	(%)
1988	**3,228**	**4.6**	**51.5**	**1,924**	**48.9**	**30.7**	**1,122**	**-0.5**	**17.9**
1987	3,085	-3.2	56.0	1,292	-37.3	23.5	1,128	7.6	20.5
1986	3,188	2.7	50.6	2,059	-13.4	32.7	1,048	-1.3	16.6
1985	3,105	-4.3	47.4	2,377	0.3	36.3	1,062	1.0	16.2
1984	3,244	10.2	48.7	2,370	0.3	35.6	1,051	-10.1	15.8
1983	2,943	7.1	45.4	2,363	-3.2	36.5	1,169	-14.5	18.1
1982	2,747	-5.1	41.9	2,442	-2.4	37.2	1,367	2.8	20.9
1981	2,896	-13.4	43.0	2,502	1.8	37.2	1,330	1.8	19.8
1980	3,343	7.4	47.0	2,458	-10.6	34.6	1,307	11.3	18.4
1979	3,114	8.4	44.3	2,748	0.9	39.0	1,174	8.5	16.7
1978	2,872	7.2	43.0	2,723	29.4	40.8	1,082	10.3	16.2

Refer to the Endnotes for note (1).

TABLE A-4

THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RATES IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADA(2) 1971 TO 1988

	ALBERTA(3,4,5)		CANADA	
YEAR	RATE PER 1,000 FEMALES 15-44 YEARS	RATE PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS	RATE PER 1,000 FEMALES 15-44 YEARS	RATE PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS
1988	**10.4**	**14.9**	**n/a**	**n/a**
1987	9.2	13.1	n/a	n/a
1986	10.5	14.4	10.2	17.0
1985	11.0	14.9	10.2(1)	16.1(1)
1984	11.2	15.1	10.2	16.5
1983	10.8	14.2	10.2	16.5
1982	11.2	14.7	11.1	17.8
1981	12.0	15.8	11.1	17.5
1980	13.3	17.9	11.5	17.7
1979	13.6	18.6	11.6	17.8
1978	13.6	18.5	11.3	17.4
1977	12.4	16.4	10.6	15.9
1976	11.5	15.0	10.3	15.1
1975	10.6	13.7	9.6	13.7
1974	11.3	14.7	9.6	13.7
1973	10.8	13.8	8.9	12.6
1972	10.7	13.3	8.2	11.2
1971	8.9	10.2	6.6	8.5

Refer to the Endnotes for notes (1) to (5).

(1) Revised in 1986 publication to reflect 1,784 reports received from Quebec after the publication of 1985 data.

TABLE A-5

THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY PATIENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE, 1982 TO 1988

Place of Residence	**1988**	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Alberta	**98.87**	99.27	99.07	99.31	99.16	99.14	99.44
Other Provinces	**1.10**	0.71	0.88	0.67	0.83	0.80	0.55
Out of Canada	**0.03**	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.06	0.01
Total(2)	**100.00**	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.00% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-6

WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS
DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, 1982 TO 1988

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
Total Therapeutic Abortions	**6,274**	5,505	6,295	6,544	6,665	6,475	6,556
Distribution by Marital Status	**(%)**	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Single	**66.3**	64.7	65.8	65.8	66.3	64.2	64.5
Married	**16.3**	17.9	18.6	19.5	19.5	19.7	19.2
Others(2)	**17.4**	17.4	15.6	14.7	14.2	16.1	16.3
TOTAL	**100.0**	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Distribution by Age Group	**(%)**	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 15	**0.5**	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8
15 - 19	**24.9**	24.7	23.5	24.3	24.7	25.7	27.8
20 - 24	**32.6**	32.8	35.3	34.6	35.3	37.1	36.7
25 - 29	**22.1**	22.4	21.1	21.7	21.5	20.1	19.3
30 - 34	**12.2**	12.2	12.2	11.7	11.1	10.3	9.5
35 - 39	**5.8**	5.3	5.7	5.4	4.8	4.6	4.4
40 - 44	**1.7**	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.4
45 or Over	**0.1**	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
TOTAL(3)	**100.0**	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living in common-law arrangements.
(3) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-7

WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY GESTATION PERIOD, 1982 TO 1988

	ALBERTA						
Gestation Period(2)	**1988**	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 9 wks.	**27.3**	27.8	25.4	29.4	27.6	23.5	17.9
9 - 12 wks.	**61.9**	62.4	64.7	62.1	62.3	65.8	67.8
Subtotal (under 13 wks.)	**89.2**	90.2	90.1	91.5	89.9	89.3	85.7
13 - 16 wks.	**7.7**	6.2	7.3	6.3	7.9	8.7	11.7
17 - 20 wks.	**3.0**	3.4	2.6	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.4
21 wks. or over(3)	**0.1**	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Subtotal (13 wks. or over)	**10.8**	9.8	9.9	8.5	10.0	10.7	14.3
TOTAL(4)	**100.0**	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
(3) These abortions were required due to the presence of fetal abnormalites.
(4) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-8

WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BEFORE THIRTEEN WEEKS OF GESTATION IN ALBERTA(1) AND CANADIAN(2) HOSPITALS, PERCENTAGE BY MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, 1982 TO 1988

	ALBERTA							CANADA	
Marital Status/Age	**1988**	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1986	1982
MARITAL STATUS									
Single	**88.4**	90.0	88.8	90.8	89.5	88.5	85.0	86.9	85.4
Married	**91.4**	92.2	92.8	93.9	92.2	90.8	88.7	90.3	90.9
Others(3)	**90.1**	88.8	92.3	91.8	88.8	90.6	84.9	89.2	87.5
AGE									
Under 20 yrs.	**85.6**	88.1	85.7	87.5	87.0	87.3	82.2	82.0	80.7
20 - 29 yrs.	**89.8**	90.4	90.7	92.5	90.3	89.4	86.5	88.5	88.2
30 - 39 yrs.	**92.1**	92.6	94.3	94.3	93.4	92.6	89.8	92.2	92.1
40 yrs. and Over	**91.2**	92.1	88.0	93.5	87.5	89.2	84.4	90.6	90.1
TOTAL	**89.2**	90.2	90.1	91.5	89.9	89.3	85.7	87.8	86.9

(1),(2) Refer to the Endnotes.
(3) Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living in common-law arrangements as well as those women receiving abortions whose marital status was unknown.

TABLE A-9

WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE GROUP AND PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1988

	Previous Deliveries						
	None	1	2	3	4 or More	Not Stated	Total(3)
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
TOTAL	57.6	20.0	15.2	5.4	1.9	-	100.0
MARITAL STATUS							
Single	76.3	16.4	5.4	1.4	0.5	-	100.0
Married	16.1	20.8	42.9	15.0	5.2	-	100.0
Others(2)	25.5	32.9	26.2	11.2	4.2	-	100.0
AGE GROUP							
Under 20	86.5	10.6	2.2	0.6	0	-	100.0
20 - 24	63.6	22.6	10.7	2.4	0.6	-	100.0
25 - 29	44.2	24.4	22.0	7.4	2.1	-	100.0
30 - 34	30.6	23.3	28.4	11.8	5.7	0.1	100.0
35 - 39	19.1	22.4	36.5	16.6	5.5	-	100.0
40 - 44	12.8	22.0	35.8	19.3	10.1	-	100.0
45 and Over	-	-	60.0	40.0	-	-	100.0

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living in common-law arrangements.
(3) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-10

WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE GROUP AND PREVIOUS INDUCED ABORTIONS, 1988

	Previous Induced Abortions				
	NONE	1	2	3 OR MORE	TOTAL(3)
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
TOTAL	79.3	17.8	2.5	0.4	100.0
MARITAL STATUS					
Single	80.1	17.3	2.3	0.3	100.0
Married	80.5	16.2	2.8	0.5	100.0
Others(2)	75.5	21.0	2.8	0.7	100.0
AGE GROUP					
Under 20	90.4	9.2	0.4	-	100.0
20 - 24	77.0	20.3	2.3	0.3	100.0
25 - 29	71.0	24.0	4.1	0.9	100.0
30 - 34	77.7	18.0	3.9	0.4	100.0
35 - 39	78.7	17.1	3.3	0.8	100.0
40 - 44	80.7	16.5	1.8	0.9	100.0
45 and Over	80.0	20.0	-	-	100.0

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living in common-law arrangements.
(3) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-11

WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES, 1982 TO 1988

	ALBERTA						
Initial Surgical Procedures	**1988**	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Surgical D&C	**0.4**	0.8	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	3.1
Suction D&C	**76.2**	64.8	74.6	77.0	76.6	79.2	78.0
Surgical & Suction D&C	**17.7**	28.4	19.1	18.4	18.7	15.3	12.1
Hysterotomy	**0.1**	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
Hysterectomy	**-**	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Saline/Saline D&C	**-**	-	-	-	0.3	0.3	0.2
Urea	**0.2**	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.5	1.8	1.9
Others	5.3	5.5	4.3	3.5	2.3	2.6	4.3
TOTAL(2)	**100.0**	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(1) Refer to the Endnotes for note (1).
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-12

SUBSEQUENT SURGICAL PROCEDURES IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURE, 1988

Initial Procedure	Total	Surgical D&C	Suction D&C	Surgical & Suction D&C	Hyster-otomy	Hyster-ectomy	Saline	Urea	Other
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Subsequent Procedure									
None Reported	96.0	92.0	99.0	98.0	80.0	100.0	-	64.3	47.6
Surgical D&C	1.8	-	0.3	0.4	-	-	-	35.7	26.6
Suction D&C	1.2	4.0	0.3	0.1	-	-	-	-	18.9
Surgical & Suction D&C	0.1	-	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	0.3
Hysterotomy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hysterectomy	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-
Saline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	0.9	4.0	0.4	1.2	20.0	-	-	-	6.6
TOTAL(2)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-13

FREQUENT SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES, 1988

Subsequent Procedure	Percentage of Total Subsequent Procedures
	(%)
Surgical D&C	44.0
Suction D&C	31.0
Surgical & Suction D&C	2.0
Hysterotomy	-
Hysterectomy	1.2
Other	21.8
TOTAL(2)	100.0

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-14

THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMPLICATIONS TREATED IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY NATURE OF COMPLICATION AND PERIOD OF GESTATION, 1988

	Gestation Period(2)					
Nature of Complication	Under 9 Weeks	9 - 12 Weeks	13 - 16 Weeks	17 - 20 Weeks	21 Weeks(3) Or Over	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Retained Products of Conception	24.1	42.3	87.9	89.5	100.0	70.6
Perforation of Uterus	17.2	12.8	-	-	-	5.0
Laceration of Cervix	20.7	19.2	2.0	1.1	-	7.9
Haemorrhage	13.8	11.5	5.1	6.3	-	7.9
Infection	13.8	7.7	2.0	2.1	-	4.6
Others	10.3	6.4	3.0	1.1	-	4.0
TOTAL(4)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
(3) These abortions were required due to the presence of fetal abnormalities.
(4) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-15

THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMPLICATIONS TREATED IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE OF INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURE, 1988

	Nature of Complication						
Initial Surgical Procedure	Retained Products Of Conception	Laceration Of Cervix	Haemorrhage	Perforated Uterus	Infection	Others	Total(2)
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Surgical D&C	33.3	33.3	-	33.3	-	-	100.0
Suction D&C	33.8	13.5	14.9	14.9	13.5	9.5	100.0
Surgical & Suction D&C	30.0	40.0	13.3	10.0	3.3	3.3	100.0
Hysterotomy	50.0	-	-	-	-	50.0	100.0
Hysterectomy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saline/Saline D&C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urea	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Other	91.5	0.5	4.8	-	1.6	1.6	100.0
TOTAL	70.6	7.9	7.9	5.0	4.6	4.0	100.0

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

TABLE A-16

WOMEN STERILIZED FOLLOWING ABORTION IN ALBERTA(1) HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP AND NUMBER OF PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1988

	Number of Previous Deliveries						
Age Group	0	1	2	3	4 Or More	Not Stated	All Patients
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 20	-	1.3	1.0	1.8	-	-	1.0
20 - 24	7.5	8.0	15.1	11.7	6.3	-	11.7
25 - 29	17.5	18.7	25.9	27.9	29.2	-	24.8
30 - 34	40.0	32.0	23.9	24.3	35.4	100.0	27.9
35 - 39	25.0	28.0	26.8	23.4	18.8	-	25.2
40 - 44	10.0	12.0	6.8	9.9	10.4	-	9.0
45 & Over	-	-	0.5	0.9	-	-	0.4
TOTAL(2)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(1) Refer to the Endnotes.
(2) Percentages may not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.

APPENDIX B

ALBERTA HOSPITALS WITH THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMMITTEES
As of January 1, 1988

Brooks Health Centre
Calgary General
Foothills Provincial General, Calgary
Holy Cross, Calgary
Rockyview General, Calgary
Drumheller General
Charles Camsell, Edmonton
Royal Alexandra, Edmonton
University of Alberta, Edmonton
Fort Saskatchewan General
Grande Prairie General
High Prairie Regional Health Complex
Hinton General
Innisfail Health Care Centre
Archer Memorial, Lamont
Lethbridge Regional (General Centre)
Medicine Hat and District (General Centre)
Peace River Municipal
Provost Municipal Health Care Centre
Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre
Stettler General
Wetaskiwin General

ENDNOTES

(1) Includes both residents and non-residents of Alberta who received therapeutic abortions in Alberta hospitals. Source: **Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File.**

(2) Includes only Canadian women who received therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals and for whom selected demographic and medical items of information were available. Source: Statistics Canada, **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211.

(3) Alberta rates were derived using data which includes therapeutic abortions performed on women of all ages, that is, including patients younger than 15 and older than 44 years of age.

(4) The number of therapeutic abortions received by Alberta women in Canadian hospitals from 1971 to 1986 are those reported by Statistics Canada in **Therapeutic Abortions,** Catalogue 82-211. These figures are used to derive the province's abortion rates per 1,000 females (15-44 years) and per 100 live births. The rates, however, have been recalculated for 1971 to 1986 using revised population and live birth data from the following sources:

Population: Statistics Canada, **Population, Revised Annual Estimates of Population by Sex and Age for Canada and the Provinces,** 1971 to 1976, Catalogue 91-518; **Final Intercensal Estimates of the Population by Sex and Age, Canada and the Provinces, June 1, 1977 to 1981,** 1977 to 1981 revised intercensal estimates based on the 1981 Census of Canada.

Postcensal **Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of Growth for Canada and the Provinces,** Catalogue 91-210, June 1, 1982 to 1986.

Live Births: Statistics Canada, **Vital Statistics, Volume 1, Births and Deaths,** Catalogue 84-204, 1971 to 1986.

(5) The 1988 rates are calculated using the total number of therapeutic abortions performed in Alberta hospitals in 1988, including therapeutic abortions performed for non-residents of the province. Alberta women who received therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals outside of Alberta are not included. The source of population and live birth data are:

Population: Statistics Canada, **Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of Growth for Canada and the Provinces,** Catalogue 91-210, June 1, 1988.

Live Births: 1988 and 1987 preliminary live birth counts were obtained from Vital Statistics, Division of Alberta Health.

(6) Historically, both the therapeutic abortion rate per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 years (TA/POP) and the fertility rate (FR), defined here as live births (LB) per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 years, have been higher in Alberta than in Canada. Since 1981, the difference between the fertility rates of Alberta and Canada has been significantly greater than the difference between the abortion rates. Therefore, the abortion rate per 100 livebirths (TA/100LB) has been lower in Alberta than in Canada for the past five years. The algebraic expression relating the two abortion rates and the fertility rates is as follows:

$$\frac{TA}{100LB} = \frac{TA}{(FR)POP(1/100)} = \frac{TA/POP}{FR(1/100)}$$

(7) The significant difference in the complication rate between Canada and Alberta is a result of many interrelated factors. Statistics Canada's studies reveal that complication risks tend to be higher with patients less than 25 years of age (particularly less than 20 years) than with more mature patients. The proportion of patients less than 25 years (and less than 20 years) has generally been higher in Alberta than in Canada. Complication risks also tend to increase with gestation. Although Alberta performs a large proportion of abortions prior to 13 weeks of pregnancy, a relatively large number of these are performed between 9 and 13 weeks. Statistics Canada claims that a two week postponement of an abortion from 9-10 weeks to 11-12 weeks can result in a 54% increase in the complication risk. Since some initial procedures are associated with a higher incidence of complications than others, as the mix of initial procedures varies across the provinces, so will the average complication rate. Finally, collecting nation-wide data on abortion complications is a delicate issue as variations in the diagnosis of such complications may result in the failure of all provinces to report in uniform manner.

Source: Statistics Canada, "Early Complication Risks of Legal Abortions, Canada, 1975-1980", **Canadian Journal of Public Health**, Vol. 73, November/December 1982, p. 396-400.